

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly
Councilman Richard D. Campopiano
Council Vice-President Robert J. Ferri, Chair
Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Absent: Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas

Also Present: Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

Councilwoman Germain:

- *Status and update on the Budlong Pool Project (Referred from 9/26/2022 City Council). (Cont. 10/13/2022 and 11/17/2022).*

Chair stated that since Councilwoman Germain is not present and no one from the Administration is present, this item will be continued.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS* and/ or NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

None.

A. *PUBLIC HEARINGS

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Vargas:

- *Process on deciding on City's tree cutdown*
- *Tree Council Communication*

Councilwoman Marino stated that she spoke with Councilwoman Vargas and they both had this topic on the full Council meeting in November and because Councilwoman Vargas is not present this evening and she is waiting on some additional information from the Administration, they will continue this item to the next Public Works Committee meeting.

Council Vice-President Ferri:

- *Possibility of starting a 'Curbside Compost Program' in Cranston.*

Chair stated that a constituent had asked him to place this item on the agenda and he told him he would if he came to testify and he is not able to attend. He asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

Request from Narragansett Electric and Verizon for pole location at Pippin Orchard Rd.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted approve the above request. Motion passed on a vote of 4-2. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilman Campopiano, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas 4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Marino and Councilman Reilly -2.

Request from Narragansett Electric and Verizon for pole location at Kingwood Ave.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted approve the above request. Motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Councilman Campopiano, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas 5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Reilly -1.

Request from Colbea Enterprises, LLC/2050 Plainfield Pike – Permit for Alteration near Historic Cemetery #18 (Fenner-Lawton Lot) and Historical Cemetery #64 (Charles Bennett Lot).

Lenny Bradley, Jr., Professional Engineer with DiPrete Engineering, appeared to speak on behalf of Colbea Enterprises, who is the owner of the property that he is present to speak on this evening. His client would like to redevelop this property into one of the Seasons Markets Gas Station that they have been renovating throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts and indicated that there is a cemetery on the property. With him this evening is Jay Waller from the Public Archeology Laboratory, who has done a lot of the work to support the application to do the improvements on the site. Because they are doing work within 25 feet of the cemetery, they are required to get permission from the City to do the renovations and improvements on the site. They are proposing to repave the area as part of the expansion or part of the renovation of the property.

Jay Waller, Jr., Sr. Archeologist with the Public Archeology Laboratory from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, appeared to speak. He stated that he has been an archeologist working in the State for almost 30 years and has been involved in dozens of cemetery projects including a number here in the City of Cranston. They were contracted by Colbea to assist them with compliance with the Cranston Historical Cemetery Ordinance as well as the State Historical Cemetery Act. They consulted with the Senior Archeologists, Charlotte Taylor, at the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission and he also reached out to John Hill, the Chair of the Cranston City's Historic Commission as well as David Guiot also from the City's Historic Cemetery Commission and they have also contacted Peggy Malcolm who is the Executive Director at the Rhode Island Historic Cemetery Commission and together he organized a site visit that was conducted in April to look at the cemetery, which is actually two cemeteries that are immediately adjacent to one another that share a wall that is more or less confined to one area. They conducted a field review of the existing conditions, documented disturbance on all four sides of the existing stone walls that was previously disturbed and they also tracked the history of the cemetery itself. The consensus of the assessment was that the project will not have any impact on either of the cemeteries and that construction is unlikely to impact unmarked graves so their recommendation to the State was that they plan to proceed as planned and they have actually received State concurrence with their recommendations.

Councilwoman Marino asked what protections they are going to place in and around the perimeter of the cemetery to ensure that someone does not get a piece of equipment and park it on the grass not realizing there are stones there. Mr. Waller stated that all the graves are surrounded by other stone walls or split iron rail and granite posts, so all graves are confined within an enclosure.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilwoman Marino, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk